



## **Environmental Assessment For Fancy Hill Mine Reclamation**

### **Responsible Agency:**

U.S. Forest Service  
Ouachita National Forest  
Caddo-Womble Ranger District

### **Responsible Official:**

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# Table of Contents

## Contents

<b>Introduction .....</b>	<b>1</b>
Purpose and Need for Action.....	1
Proposed Action.....	1
Issues.....	1
<b>Alternatives, including the Proposed Action.....</b>	<b>1</b>
Alternatives .....	1
Alternative 1.....	1
Project Design Criteria .....	3
<b>Environmental Consequences .....</b>	<b>3</b>
Cultural and Historical Resources .....	3
Public Health or Safety .....	3
Management Indicator Species and Habitat (MIS) .....	3
Proposed, Threatened, Endangered and Sensitive Species (PETS) & Habitat .....	5
Unique Characteristics of the Geographic Area .....	5
Quality of the Human Environment.....	5
Uncertainty.....	5
Precedent for Future Actions .....	6
Cumulative Effects.....	6
Federal, State, or Local Laws .....	6
<b>Consultation and Coordination .....</b>	<b>6</b>

# INTRODUCTION

## Purpose and Need for Action

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The structures that are located on the site present a hazard to the public. There is a need to remove parts of the structure that would provide access and close off the remaining structure. The closure would need to allow bats and other wildlife that use the structure access.

## Proposed Action

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The Forest Service proposes to remove parts of the abandoned mining structure and install a closure on the facilities that would remain standing. In order to reach the site, the access would have to be cleaned of brush and some trees would have to be removed around the structures for equipment to gain access. The project is located in Section 22 of T4S, R26W in Montgomery County, Arkansas.

## Issues

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No site-specific concerns were raised during scoping; no issues were developed to be analyzed in depth.

# ALTERNATIVES, INCLUDING THE PROPOSED ACTION

## Alternatives

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### Alternative 1

#### *The Proposed Action*

The Forest Service proposes to remove parts of the abandoned mining structure and install a closure on the facilities that would remain standing. In order to reach the site, the access would have to be cleaned of brush and some trees would have to be removed around the structures for equipment to gain access. The project is located in Section 22 of T4S, R26W in Montgomery County, Arkansas.

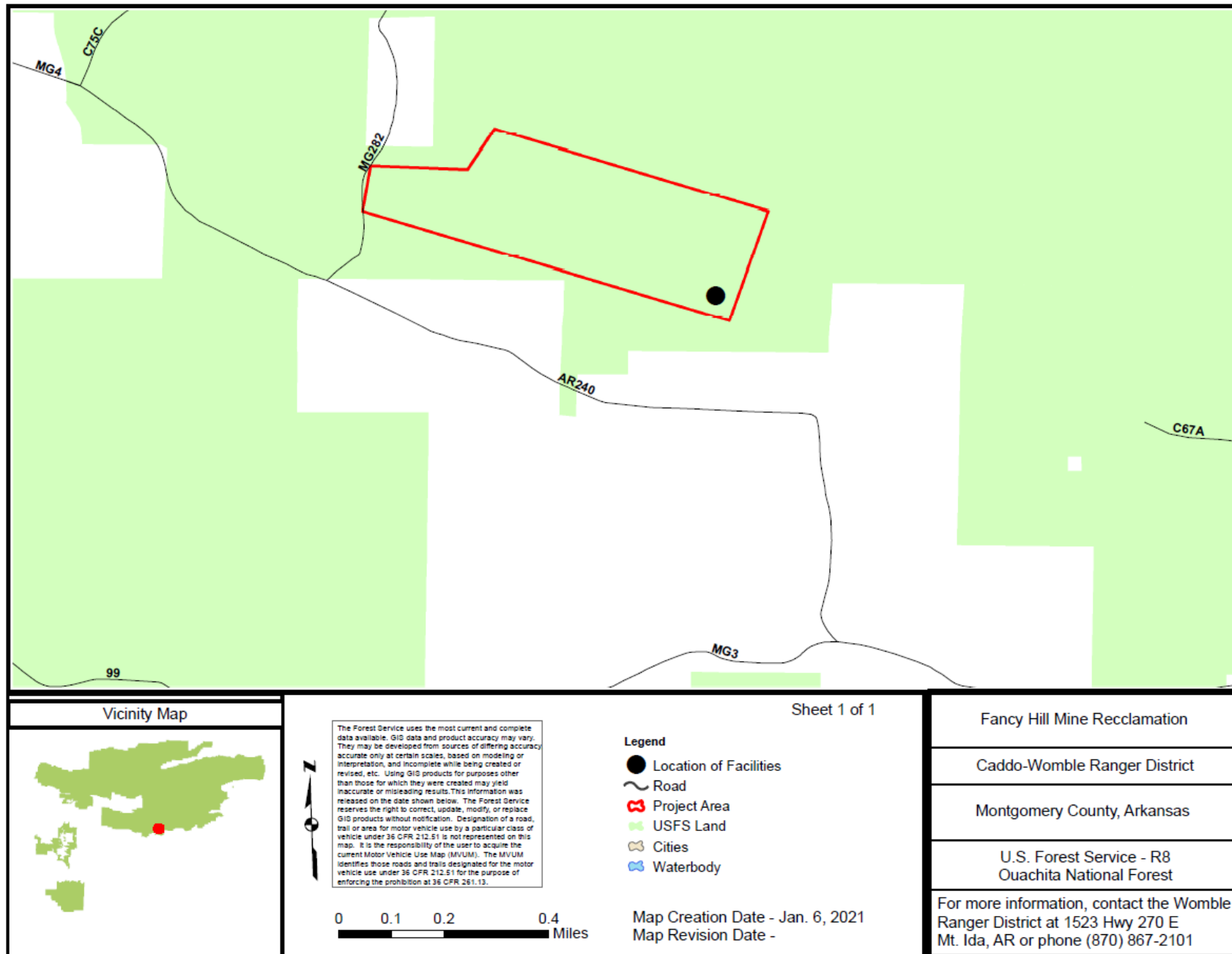


Figure 1. Proposed Action.

## Project Design Criteria

The Revised Forest Plan guides all natural resource management activities for the Ouachita National Forest.

## ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES

### Cultural and Historical Resources

This project would occur in areas previously surveyed and previously disturbed by mining activities. As documented in PN 21-005, there are no known archeological sites located within or adjacent to the project area. The tower structure itself was built in 1980 and is therefore not old enough to be considered for the National Register of Historic Places (NHRP). The proposed action would have no effect on historic properties or cause loss or destruction of cultural resources.

### Public Health or Safety

Public health and safety permit stipulations would be adhered to by the permittee, including maintaining an existing fence to restrict access to the airport. No adverse effects on public health or safety would be expected to occur.

### Management Indicator Species and Habitat (MIS)

As part of the overall effort to ensure that habitat requirements of all native vertebrates, invertebrates, and plants are considered in the planning, implementation, and monitoring of Forest management practices, the Revised Forest Plan lists 24 species that should adequately address the effects of Forest management practices on fish and wildlife populations and their habitat needs, as well as demand species and species of special interest. These species, termed “Management Indicator Species” (MIS), represent a broad array of habitats covering diverse geographic areas within the Ouachita National Forest, as well as inhabiting areas with diverse management objectives.

**MIS Selected for This Project:** The entire list of 24 MIS were reviewed and a subset was selected as MIS for the actions proposed in this EA. The MIS selected include 6 terrestrial species and 9 fish species. Species not known to occur within the action area, lacking suitable habitat, or not tied to an appropriate evaluation objective were not selected, as indicated in the “Selected?” column of the following table.

#### POTENTIALLY AFFECTED MANAGEMENT INDICATOR SPECIES (TABLE 3.4)

Life Form	Common Name	Scientific Name	Selected?
Mammal	White-tailed deer	<i>Odocoileus virginianus</i>	Yes
Bird	Northern Bobwhite	<i>Colinus virginianus</i>	Yes
Bird	Eastern Wild Turkey	<i>Meleagris gallapavo</i>	Yes
Bird	Red-cockaded Woodpecker	<i>Picoides borealis</i>	No
Bird	Pileated woodpecker	<i>Dryocopus pileatus</i>	Yes

Life Form	Common Name	Scientific Name	Selected?
Bird	Scarlet Tanager	<i>Piranga olivacea</i>	<b>Yes</b>
Bird	Prairie Warbler	<i>Dendroica discolor</i>	<b>Yes</b>
Fish	Largemouth bass	<i>Micropterus salmoides</i>	No
Fish	Smallmouth bass	<i>Micropterus dolomieu</i>	<b>No</b>
Fish	Bluegill sunfish	<i>Lepomis macrochirus</i>	No
Fish	Redear sunfish	<i>Lepomis microlophus</i>	No
Fish	Yellow bullhead	<i>Ameiurus natalis</i>	<b>No</b>
Fish	Highland stoneroller	<i>Campostoma spadiceum</i>	<b>No</b>
Fish	Redfin darter	<i>Etheostoma whipplei</i>	No
Fish	Green sunfish	<i>Lepomis cyanellus</i>	<b>No</b>
Fish	Longear sunfish	<i>Lepomis megalotis</i>	<b>No</b>
Fish	Johnny darter	<i>Etheostoma nigrum</i>	No
Fish	Orangebelly darter	<i>Etheostoma radiosum</i>	<b>No</b>
Fish	Channel darter	<i>Percina copelandi</i>	No
Fish	Pirate perch	<i>Aphredoderus sayanus</i>	No
Fish	Creek chubsucker	<i>Erimyzon oblongus</i>	No
Fish	Northern Studfish	<i>Fundulus catenatus</i>	<b>No</b>
Fish	Northern hog sucker	<i>Hypentilium nigricans</i>	<b>No</b>
Fish	Striped shiner	<i>Luxilus chrysocephalus</i>	<b>No</b>

## Terrestrial MIS

TERRESTRIAL MIS AND ASSOCIATED PURPOSES (TABLE 3.5)

Life Form	Scientific Name	Common Name	Primary Reason for Selection
Bird	<i>Colinus virginianus</i>	Northern Bobwhite	To help indicate effects of management on meeting public hunting demand, and to help indicate effects of management on the pine-oak woodland community
Bird	<i>Dendroica discolor</i>	Prairie Warbler	To help indicate effects of management on the early successional component of forest communities
Bird	<i>Meleagris gallopavo</i>	Eastern Wild Turkey	To help indicate effects of management on meeting public hunting demand
Mammal	<i>Odocoileus virginianus</i>	White-tailed deer	To help indicate effects of management on meeting public hunting demand
Bird	<i>Dryocopus pileatus</i>	Pileated Woodpecker	To help indicate effects of management on snags and snag-dependent species
Bird	<i>Piranga olivacea</i>	Scarlet Tanager	To help indicate effects of management on mature forest communities

## Direct and Indirect Effects

These actions, described in this project, would have no direct or indirect effects on the MIS selected for analysis.

## Proposed, Threatened, Endangered and Sensitive Species (PETS) & Habitat

Eighty PETS species were reviewed for occurring or potentially occurring in the analysis area (Regional Forester's Sensitive Species list, Forest Service's Sensitive Species List, Arkansas natural Heritage Commission inventories of PETS species locations). The table below lists PETS species that occur or potentially occur in the analysis area and would be affected by proposed project activities.

**PETS SPECIES EVALUATED (TABLE 3.6)**

Group	Scientific Name	Common Name	Status
Mammal	<i>Myotis septentrionalis</i>	Northern long-eared bat	Threatened
Mammal	<i>Perimyotis subflavus</i>	Tri-colored bat	Sensitive
Mammal	<i>Myotis austroriparius</i>	Southeastern myotis	Sensitive

### Direct and Indirect Effects

Disturbance within project area may cause bat species to temporarily abandon sites but actions would not likely exclude bats from foraging in area. There is the possibility of noise from the heavy equipment that could awaken nearby roosting bats and cause them to expend energy during the daytime to fly to another roost. Temporary soil disturbance caused by heavy equipment would promote patches of early successional habitat and beneficial herbaceous growth preferred by insects that these bats can forage. Maintenance of herbaceous cover would continue to provide foraging opportunities for these species. The closest known hibernaculum is 3.7 miles from the project area no suitable mine habitat is within the project area.

### Unique Characteristics of the Geographic Area

There are no park lands, prime farmlands, wetlands, roadless areas, wild and scenic rivers, wilderness, or ecologically critical areas to be affected. The effects on historic and cultural resources are disclosed on page three.

### Quality of the Human Environment

The effects of the proposed activities are not known to be controversial in the scientific community.

### Uncertainty

There are no effects that are highly uncertain or involve unique or unknown risks. The project is not unique or unusual. The Forest Service has experience implementing similar actions in similar areas. The environmental effects to the human environment are analyzed in this EA.

## **Precedent for Future Actions**

This project neither establishes a precedent nor represents a subsequent decision in principle about future actions.

## **Cumulative Effects**

There are no other past, present or reasonably foreseeable actions in the project area; there would be no cumulative effects.

## **Federal, State, or Local Laws**

The proposed actions would not violate any known Federal, State, or local law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment. They are consistent with the Revised Forest Plan and applicable policies and programs.

# **CONSULTATION AND COORDINATION**

## **Coordination**

Laura Donaldson	District Archeologist
Kegan Lowey	Forester
Brandon Morris	Timber Sale Administrator
Mary Brown	Wildlife Biologist
Derek Rollins	Wildlife Technician
Chip Stokes	District NEPA Coordinator
David Whitmire	Archeological Technician
Andy McCormick	Forest Geologist

## **Consultation**

Caddo Nation of Oklahoma  
The Osage Nation  
Quapaw Tribe of Oklahoma  
State Historic Preservation Office  
US Fish & Wildlife Service